



the
Chickasaw
Nation HEADQUARTERS

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Bill Anoatubby
Governor

Chris Anoatubby
Lt. Governor

February 25, 2021

Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director:

This letter describes how the Chickasaw Nation Child Care program plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). The Chickasaw Nation understands that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how the Chickasaw Nation anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in the Chickasaw Nation's jurisdiction.

The Chickasaw Nation plans to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

1. Direct Services/Subsidies:

- Provide child care assistance to qualified families residing within the Chickasaw Nation's service area.
- Provide direct services to families in need of assistance with child care payments. Due to the pandemic, some child care facilities closed forcing families to enroll their children in new child care facilities. The child care payments for the new facilities are double the amount that families paid at their previous child care facilities. Providing services would help with subsidy payments for families during the pandemic who are now paying more per month for child care services.
- Waiving co-payments of families considered "protective services."

2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices:

- Provide assistance/grants for the purposes of cleaning and sanitation (including cleaning supplies or deep cleaning services), other supplies and equipment such as personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Assist with updated air filtration systems and purchase cleaning devices targeted to kill COVID-19 and other childhood illnesses.
- Provide additional funding to providers to help meet the health and safety guidelines to improve the quality of care provided.

3. Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers:

- Pay based on enrollment and not daily attendance.
- Provide virtual professional development opportunities, staffing and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of facilities.
- Provide funding to eligible child care providers for activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of child care facilities. This will benefit all child care providers, regardless of whether

they are eligible to serve or are currently serving children receiving CCDF subsidies as long as the program is licensed and providing care to Native American (NA) children and families in need of child care.

- Provide hazard pay to child care facilities that have remained open and provided services to NA children and families during the pandemic. The majority of child care facilities have been operating at lower capacities, which drastically reduced their revenue. The hazard pay will provide assistance to child care providers to assure they are able to remain open.

4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic:

- **Yes** - Additional guidance is needed to finalize plans. The providers currently not in contract with the Chickasaw Nation will be eligible for virtual training, grants and other related direct services to improve health and safety and the overall quality of care for all NA children.

5. Other

- Research validity and need of a possible 24-hour operational child care facility on the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center (CNMC) campus to provide care for children of the health care sector, emergency responders, sanitation staff, food service staff and other staff deemed essential or mission critical during times of need.
- Car seat safety check station on the CNMC's campus to operate in conjunction with the pediatric drive-through clinic.
- Assistance grants for qualified new child care facilities in areas considered "child care deserts." The Chickasaw Nation Child Care program covers 13 counties within southcentral Oklahoma. A majority of the Chickasaw Nation's service area is rural and has very few, if any, quality child care facilities. Grants will support health and safety and improve quality of the child care facilities.
- Provide school age grants within local public schools to expand learning opportunities for students, including before-school, after-school and summer learning programs. Through partnerships between local schools and community organizations, the grant will allow the programs to offer enrichment activities that complement school-day learning and help students meet state and local achievement standards. These grants will bring language and culture programs to students and establish relationships supporting Chickasaw language revitalization.

The Chickasaw Nation Child Care program will amend its CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas John, Under Secretary
The Chickasaw Nation
Community Services

cc: Gwendolyn Jones, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 6
Joey Bishop, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 6